



Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Robert R. Neall, Secretary

May 29, 2020

Dear Nursing Home Management / Administrator:

On April 29, 2020, I issued a Directive and Order regarding nursing home matters that implemented universal testing of nursing home staff and residents pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order No. 20-04-29-01. The Maryland Department of Health (MDH), with support from the Maryland National Guard, began universal testing of Maryland's nursing homes.

By the close of business today, the Maryland National Guard will have coordinated the delivery of COVID-19 specimen collection kits to all 227 of Maryland's nursing homes. Any nursing home requiring additional COVID-19 specimen collection kits should immediately contact their County Health Officer to arrange for the delivery of additional kits.

Nursing homes are directed to use these test kits to complete the contemporaneous COVID-19 test specimen collection on 100% of nursing home residents and staff. It is essential that all nursing homes conduct specimen collection promptly. **MDH requires specimens from 100% of residents and all available staff be collected and submitted to the designated laboratory for testing no later than June 5, 2020.**

The Maryland National Guard will follow-up with a telephone survey of all 227 facilities to ensure all testing is completed and to address questions and concerns about universal testing. As previously noted, assistance with staff shortages due to temporary loss of asymptomatic positive staff is available through the Chesapeake Registry and from Bridge Teams as necessary.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your local health department or Col. Eric Allely at eric.b.allely.mil@mail.mil.

Sincerely,

Robert R. Neall
Secretary